

REMARKS

Claims 1-23 are in the application, with claims 21-23 having been provisionally withdrawn in the event a generic claim is not allowed. Claims 1, 8 and 20 are the independent claims herein. Claims 1, 8, 9, 13, 14, 18, 19, and 20-23 have been amended in order to correct some informalities and more clearly define the invention. No new matter has been added. Reconsideration and further examination are respectfully requested.

Information Disclosure Statements

As requested in the Office Action, Applicants have provided copies of four previously-submitted Information Disclosure Statements and their cited references under separate cover, mailed February 4, 2008.

Claim Rejections

Applicants gratefully acknowledge the allowance of claims 1 through 19. Claim 20 is currently rejected under 35 U.S.C. §101, 35 U.S.C. §112, and 35 U.S.C. §102(b). Claim 20 has been amended and provisionally withdrawn claims 21 through 23 have been amended, in order to overcome the rejections. Therefore, the application is believed to be in condition for allowance.

CONCLUSION

For at least the reasons set forth above, Applicants respectfully submit that the present application is in condition for allowance. Accordingly, reconsideration and allowance of the present application are respectfully requested.

Because the reasons set forth above are sufficient to overcome the rejections set forth in the outstanding Office Action, Applicants do not address some of the assertions set forth therein and/or other possible reasons for overcoming the rejections. Nonetheless, Applicants reserve the right to address such assertions and/or to present other possible reasons for overcoming the rejections in any future paper and/or proceeding.

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Respectfully submitted,



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Date: 2-21-08